

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ANNUAL STATE LAND ACQUISITION COORDINATING FORUM

March 14, 2014

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group



- **DNR Mission:** In Partnership with citizens and governments, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources provides innovative leadership and expertise to ensure environmental protection, public safety, perpetual funding for schools and communities and a rich quality of life.



- **NA Mission:** The Natural Areas Program at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources protects outstanding examples of the state's extraordinary diversity. These lands represent the finest natural, undisturbed ecosystems in state ownership, often protecting rare or vulnerable plant and animal species. The program manages two types of conservation lands, Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves.

Conservation Lands

- 91 sites total more than 150,000 acres or about 2.5 percent of all DNR-managed lands
- Two Conservation Categories
 - Natural Area Preserves
 - Natural Resources Conservation Areas



DNR Natural Areas Objectives

- **1972 Natural Area Preserves Act (RCW 79.70)**

- Lands that have retained natural character or protect rare species
- Representative ecosystem types



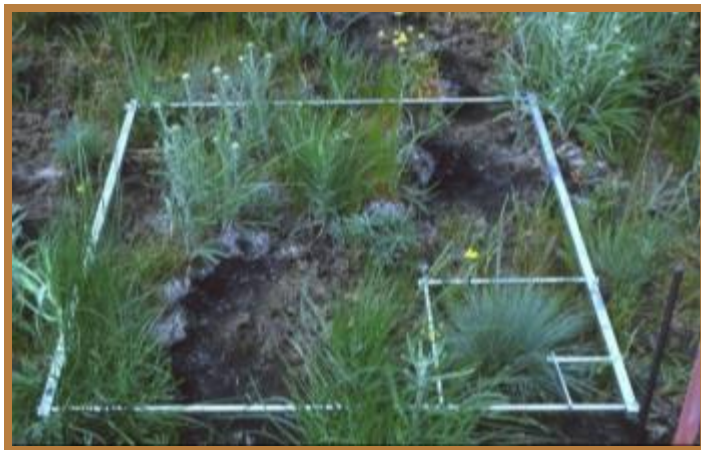
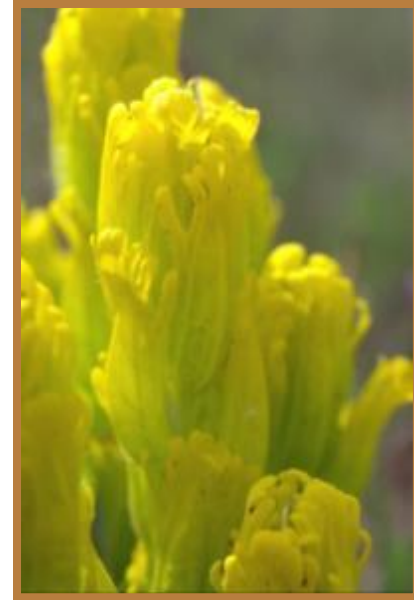
- **1987 Natural Resources Conservation Areas Act (RCW 79.71)**

- High conservation values, scenic or historical values plus opportunities for low-impact public use



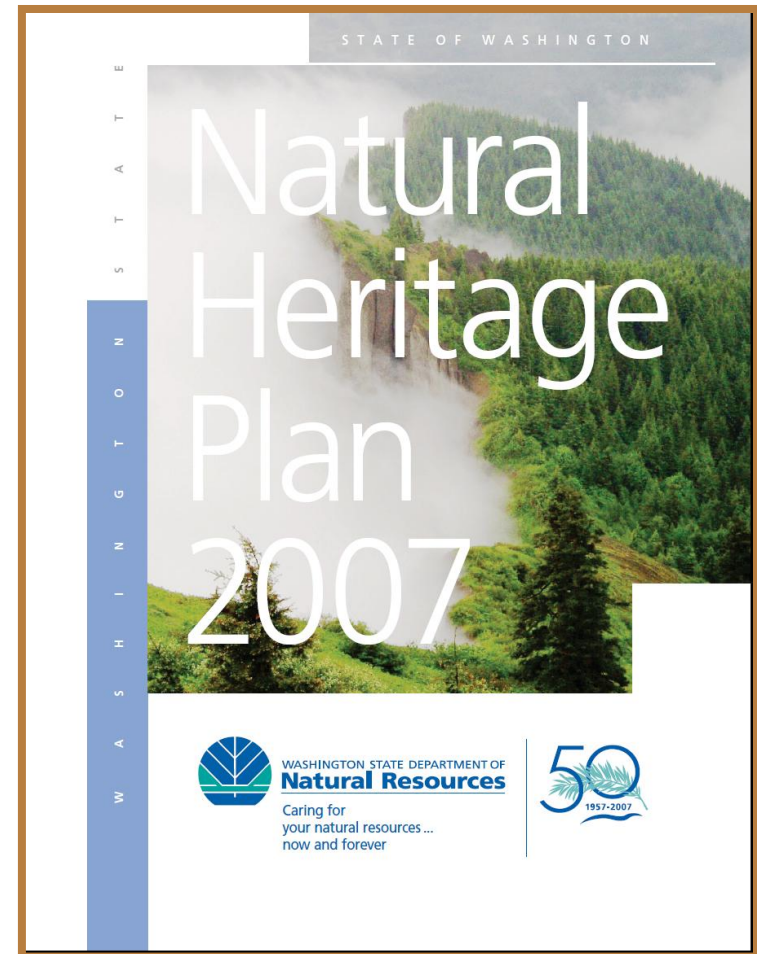
DNR Natural Area Purpose

- Scientific research
- Educational access
- Baseline / reference areas
- Habitats for vanishing species
- Opportunities for low-impact public use where appropriate



Natural Area Selection Process

- Features listed in the *State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan*
- Rare plants, animals and ecosystems
- Conservation, scenic or historical values of statewide significance
- Recommended by the Natural Heritage Advisory Council



Natural Area Boundary Designation Process

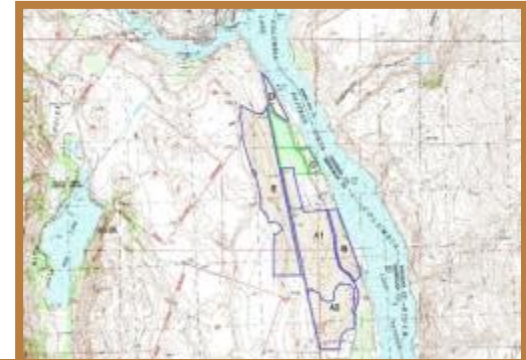
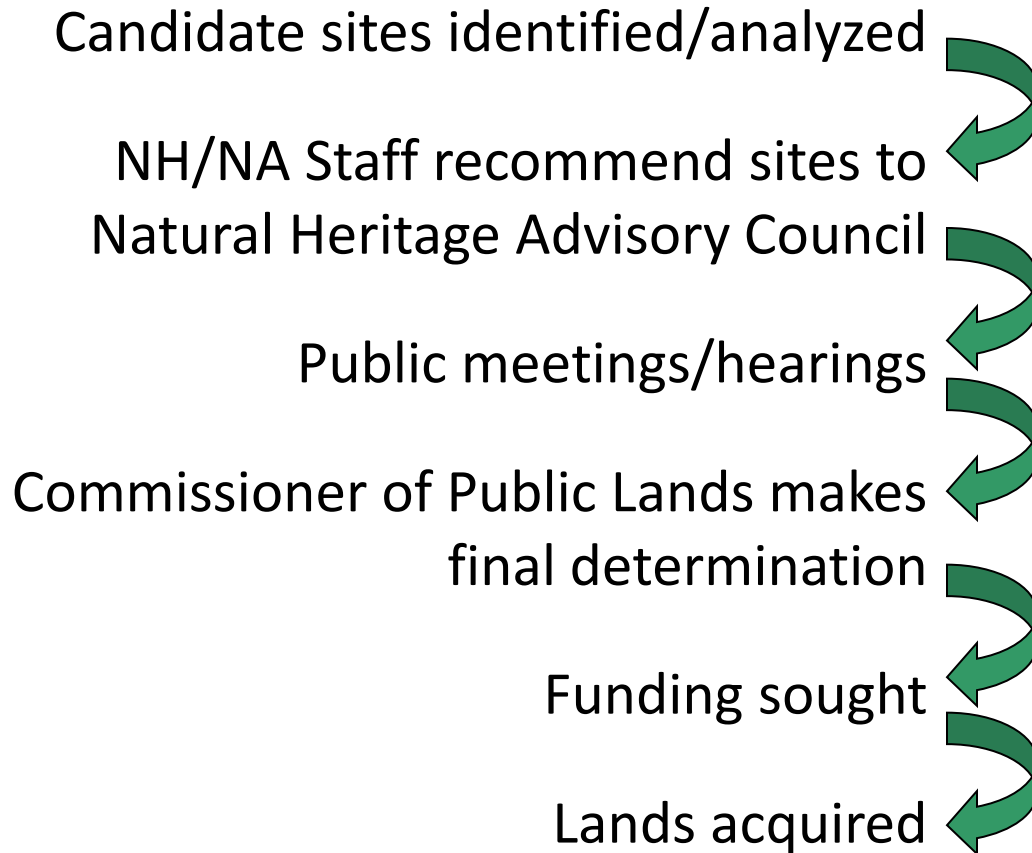
■ Public Outreach

- Site visits with members of the Natural Heritage Advisory Council and conservation partner organizations
- Onsite visits with landowner(s)
- Community meetings and mailings
- Public hearings



Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

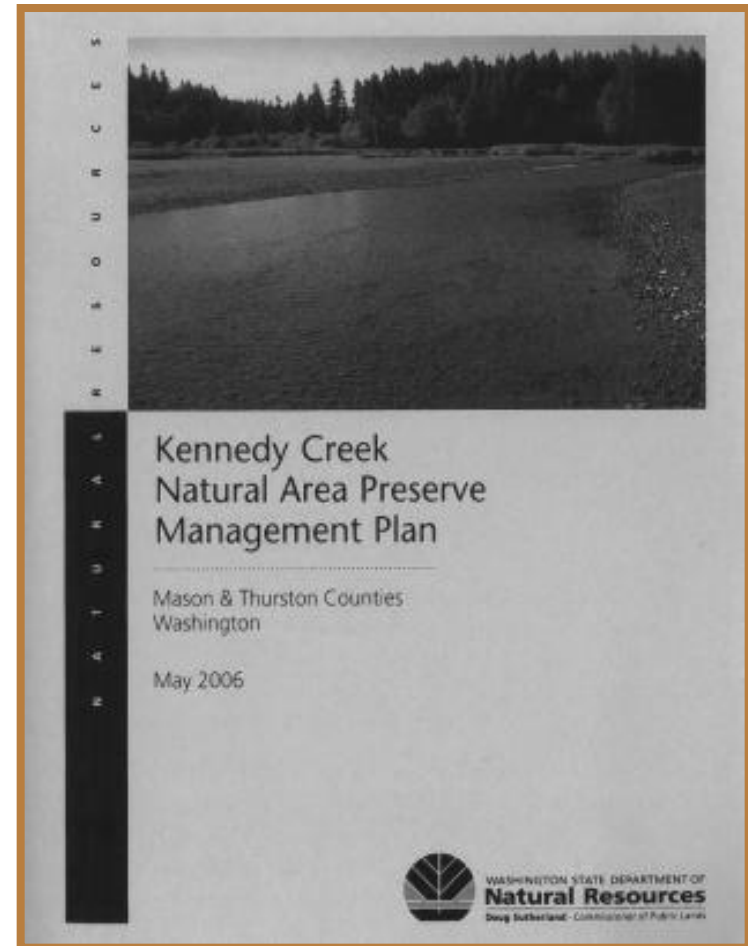
Natural Area Boundary Designation Process



Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

Natural Area Management Planning

- **Management Planning**
 - Review site-specific conservation goals
 - Public meeting for draft plan review
 - For NRCAs, planning level SEPA review
 - Adoption by the Natural Heritage Advisory Council and DNR for NAPs, or the Commissioner of Public Lands for NRCAs



Washington's Natural Areas

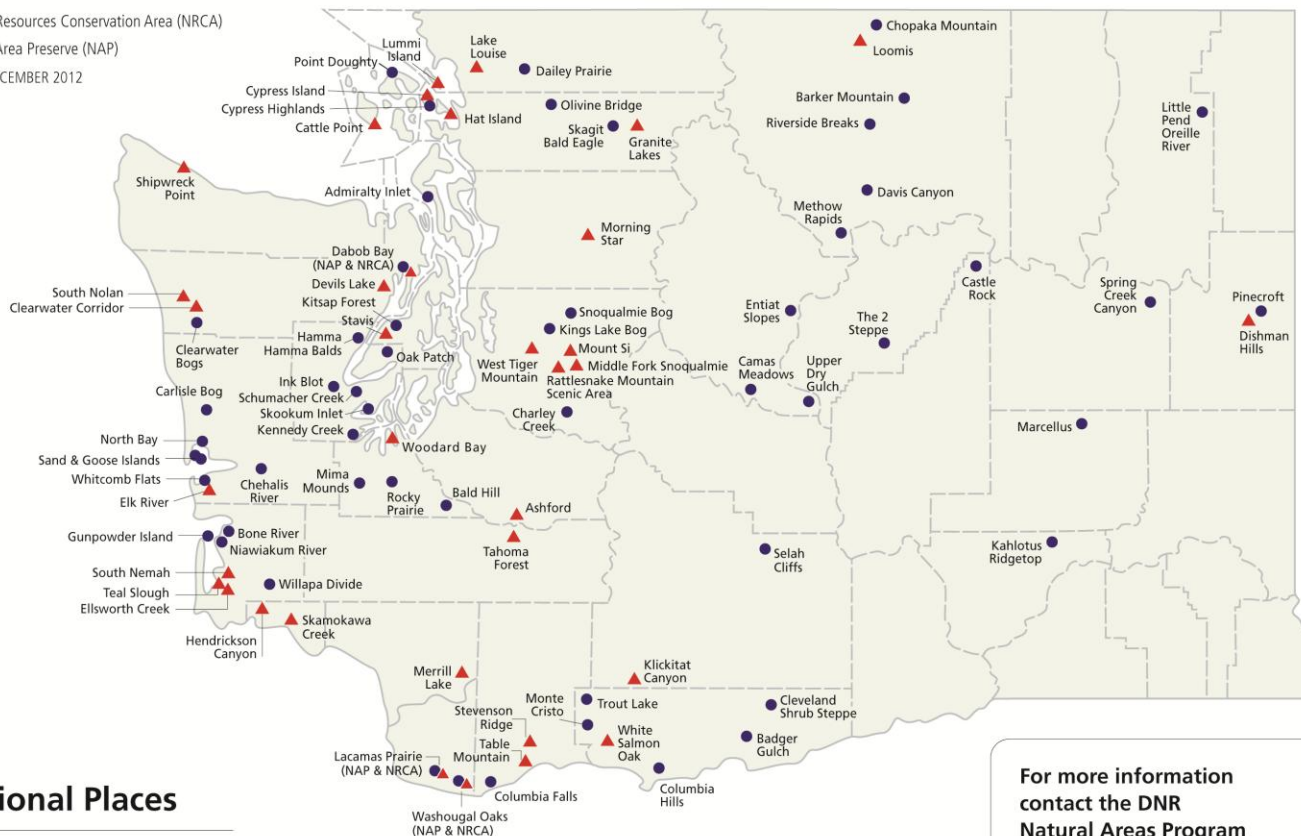


WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

▲ Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA)

● Natural Area Preserve (NAP)

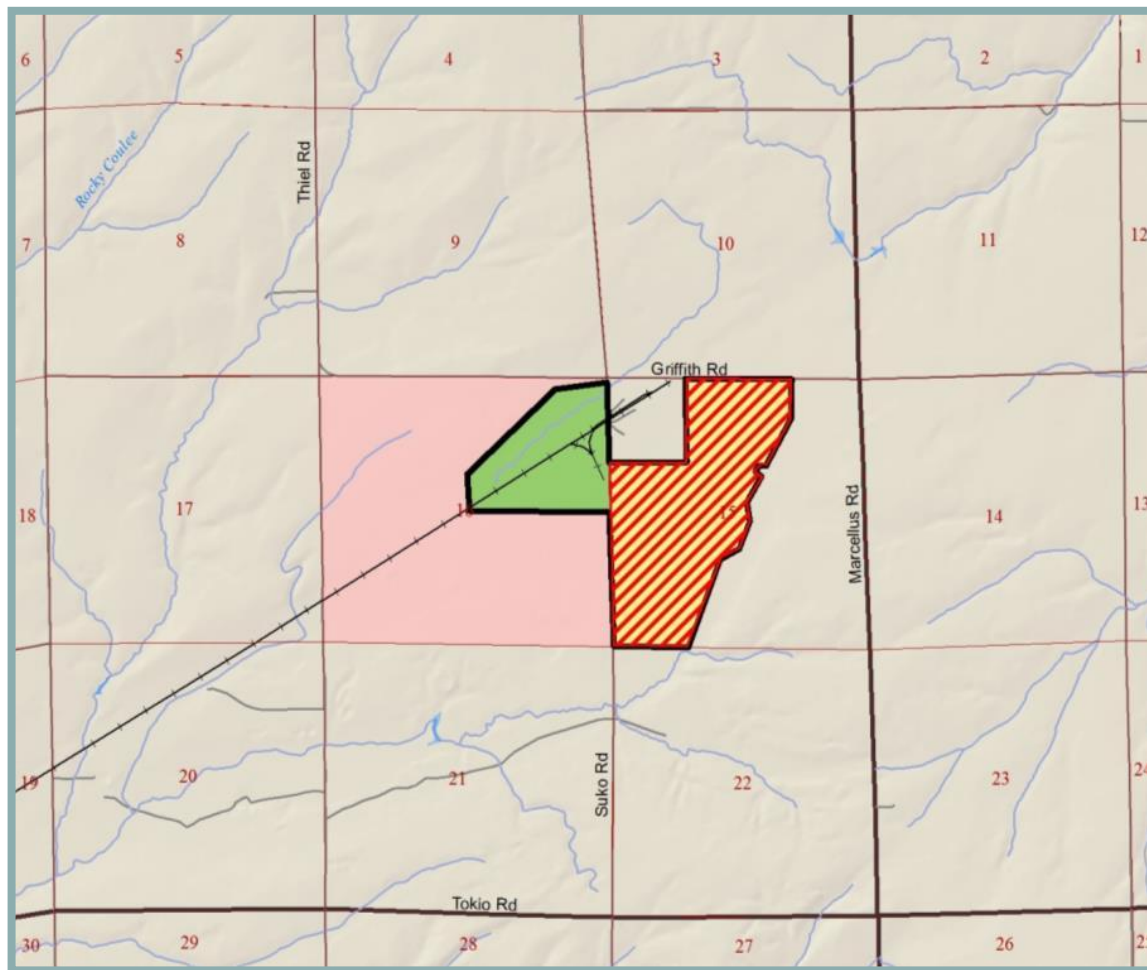
AS OF DECEMBER 2012



Exceptional Places

Quality examples of Washington's native grasslands, woodlands, marshes and more are protected in natural areas managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These special sites offer opportunities for research and education. Some have interpretive or recreation trails. Others require DNR permission to visit because features are sensitive to human disturbance.

For more information
contact the DNR
Natural Areas Program
PO Box 47014
Olympia, WA 98504-7014
(360) 902-1600
TTY (360) 902-1125
www.dnr.wa.gov



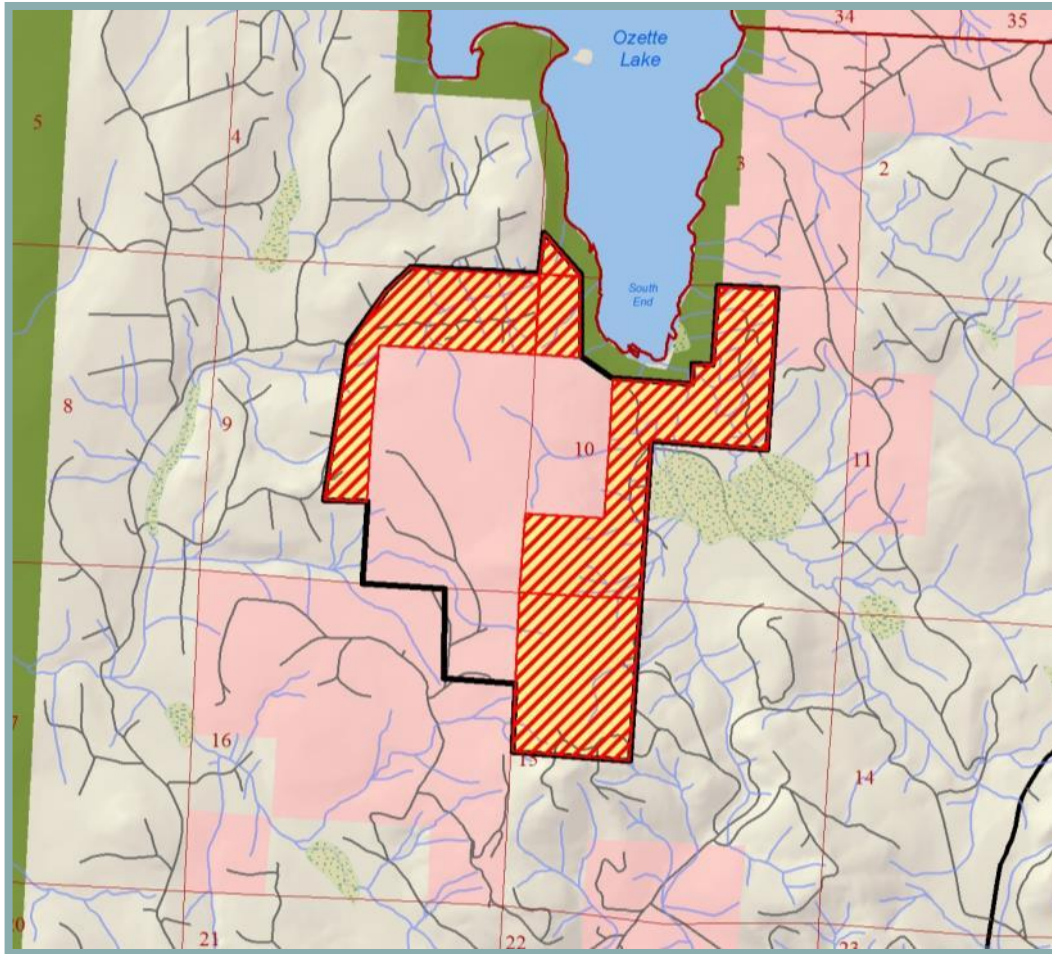
MAP LEGEND

-  NAP Boundary
-  Natural Area Preserve
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  DNR Trust Lands
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition



Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The project area will protect habitat for shrub-steppe plant communities and high-quality vernal ponds and their associated vegetation. The Marcellus site provides the most extensive and highest quality example of <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> / <i>Festuca idahoensis</i> association and also represents the highest quality stand of <i>Artemisia tripartita</i> / <i>Festuca idahoensis</i> association. The Marcellus vernal ponds are excellent examples of the driest-shallowest ponds found in the Columbia basin Ecoregion.
Estimated Acres	300
Requested Amount	\$175,000
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas
Legislative District	9
Existing Uses	Conservation of shrub steppe habitats.
Intended Uses	The site helps complete the statewide system of natural areas and will be managed to maintain the high quality shrub steppe habitats that have been become increasingly rare. It will provide opportunities for environmental education and research along with long-term biodiversity protection.
Future Capital Costs	\$0
Future Operating Costs	\$862 / year
PILT Estimate	\$747 / year



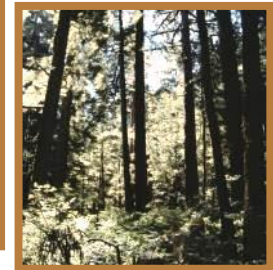
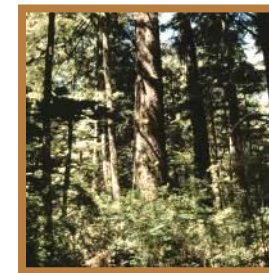


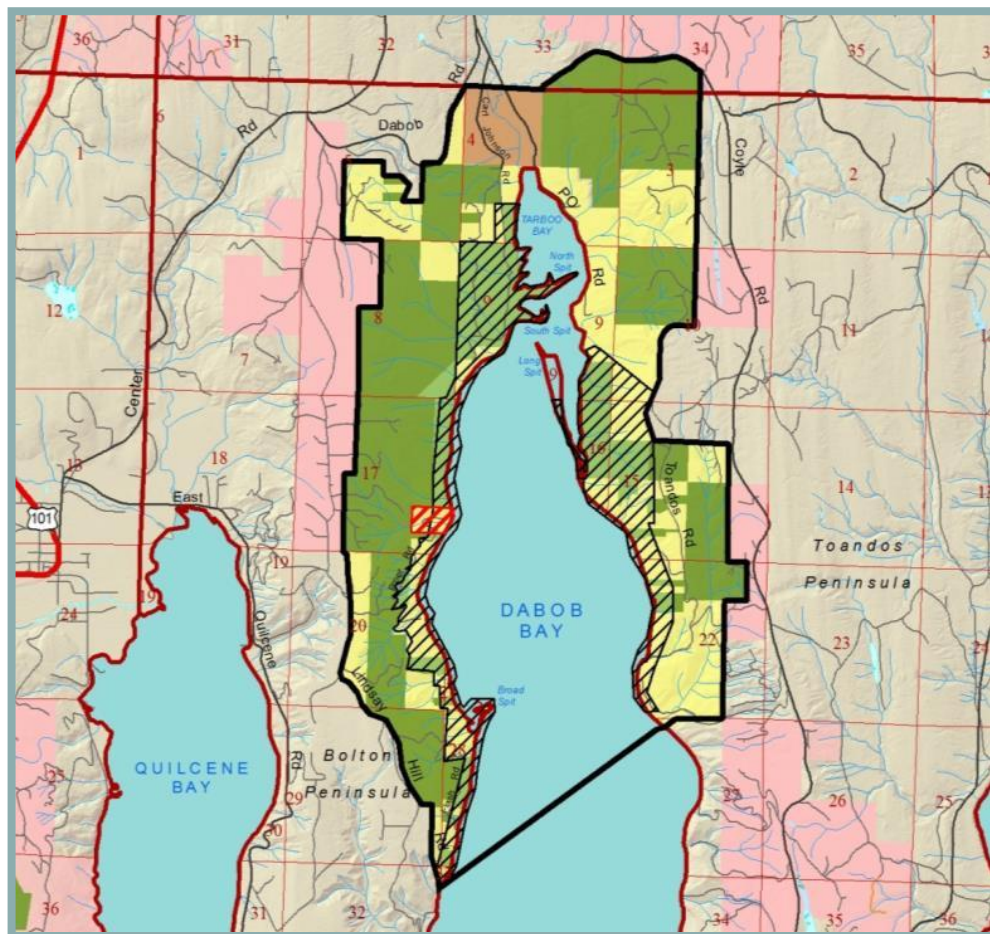
MAP LEGEND

-  NAP Boundary
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  DNR Trust Lands
-  Olympic National Forest
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition



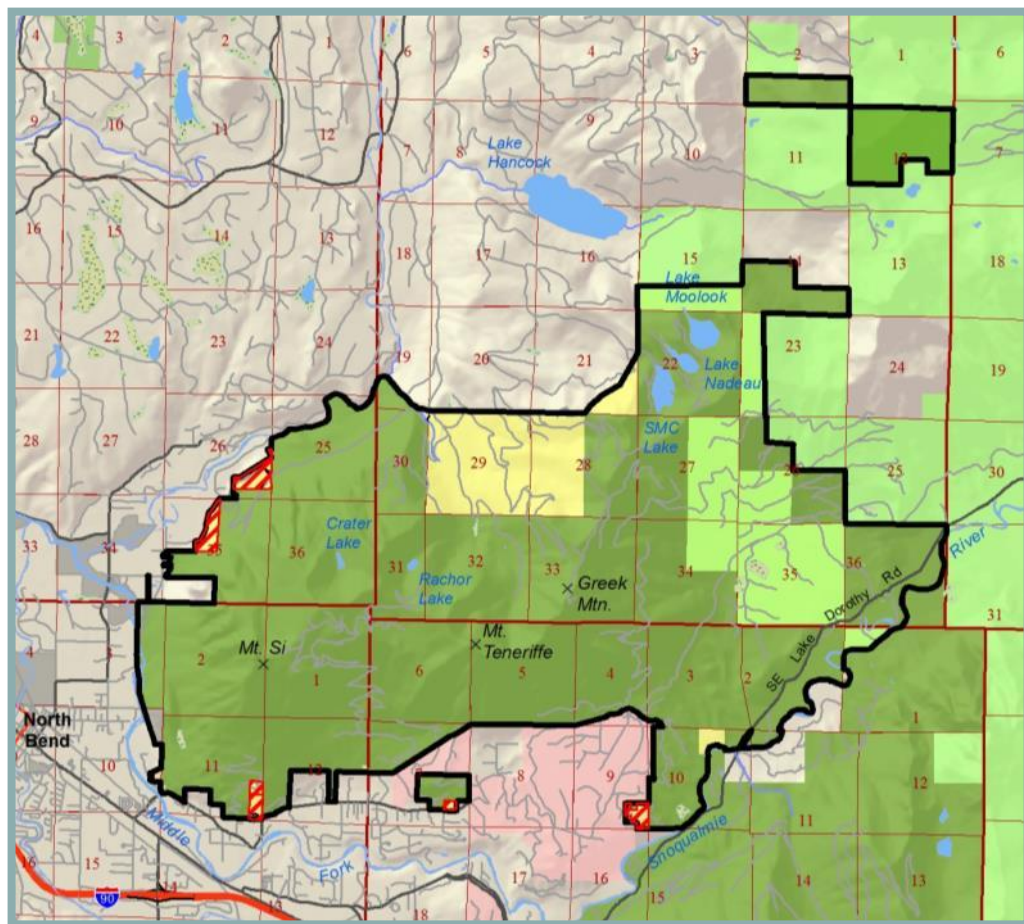
Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The project area consists of old-growth forest, natural second-growth forest and forest plantations near the south end of Lake Ozette. The high quality Sitka spruce forest communities mixed with old-growth western red cedar-western hemlock forests within the identified boundary are not well represented in protected status in state or federal ownership. In 1991, the first survey for spotted owl located a pair; however, a nest site was not located at that time. Vegetation under the stands also include salal with Alaska huckleberry, deerfern or swordfern.
Estimated Acres	300
Requested Amount	\$1.4 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas
Legislative District	24
Existing Uses	Resource management including wildlife habitat, recreational access.
Intended Uses	The proposal will add under-represented natural heritage features to the statewide system of natural areas and protect representative forest ecosystems not presently adequately protected. It will provide opportunities for environmental education and research along with increased biodiversity protection.
Future Capital Costs	\$5,000 (RMAP) / \$20,000 (restoration)
Future Operating Costs	\$3,855 / year
PILT Estimate	\$1,164 / year





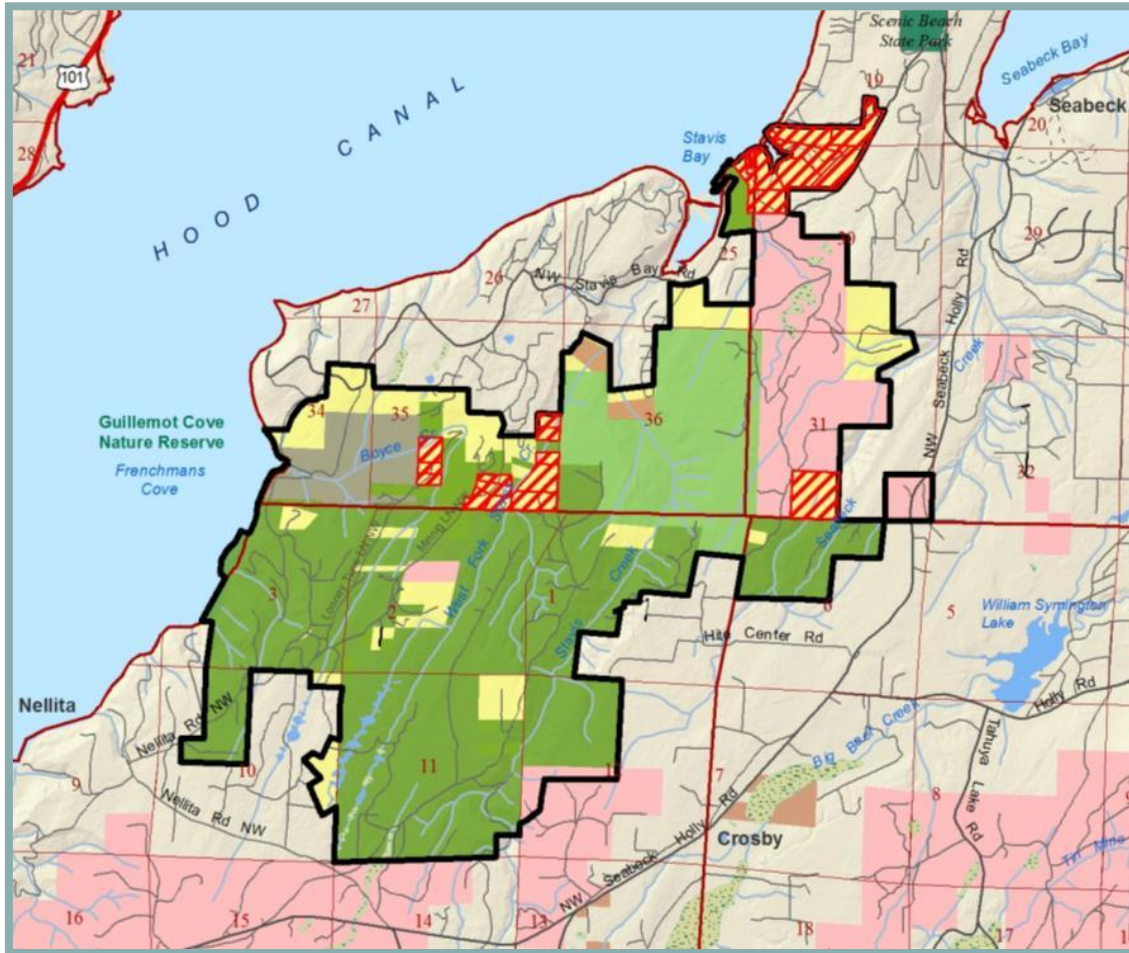
Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Dabob Bay Natural Area contains four, high quality examples of coastal spits. This site includes coastal bluffs and shorelines that provide sediment and woody debris for continued ecological function of the coastal spits. Additionally, two, high-quality examples of under-represented forest vegetation types listed in the Natural Heritage Plan are included in the site. The target area consists of three ownerships (with some development) and acquisition will allow opportunity to remove shoreline hardening and restore natural features.
Estimated Acres	15
Requested Amount	\$1.5 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple and Conservation Easement
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection NOAA: Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) DOD: Encroachment Protection Agreement
Legislative District	24
Existing Uses	The priority parcels have potential for residential and recreational uses.
Intended Uses	The priority parcels will add to the protection of the existing natural area and help support the statewide system of natural areas, provide access for education and research and possible low-impact recreation.
Future Capital Costs	\$20,000 (RMAP) / \$200,000 (restoration)
Future Operating Costs	\$2,525 / year
PILT Estimate	\$93 / year





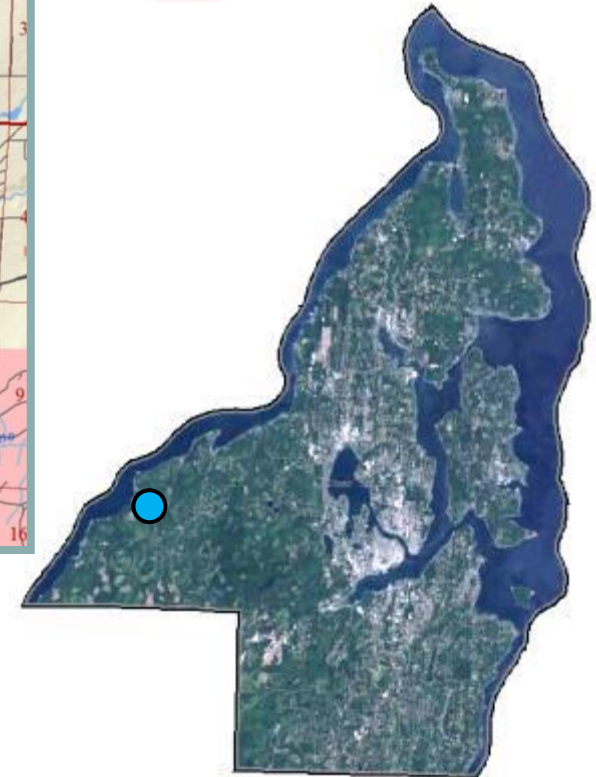
Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Mount Si NRCA project area consists of properties which provide crucial wildlife habitat near an urban area. This site is part of the Mountains to Sound Greenway which is a 100 mile landscape of forests, wildlife habitat and open spaces along Interstate 90. Features include talus, high and low elevation lakes, numerous streams, wetlands, old-growth and mature forests, cliffs, and wildlife landscape connections.
Estimated Acres	87
Requested Amount	\$1.25 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6)
Legislative District	5
Existing Uses	Potential residential development, recreation, resource management.
Intended Uses	The priority parcels will add to the protection of the existing natural area and increase the ability to manage invasive species.
Future Capital Costs	\$5,000 (RMAP) / \$5,000 (restoration)
Future Operating Costs	\$780 / year
PILT Estimate	\$1,230 / year





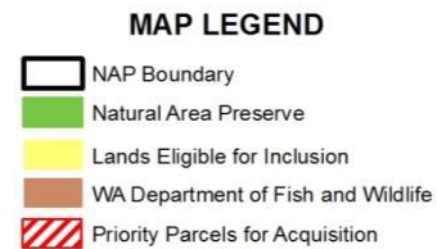
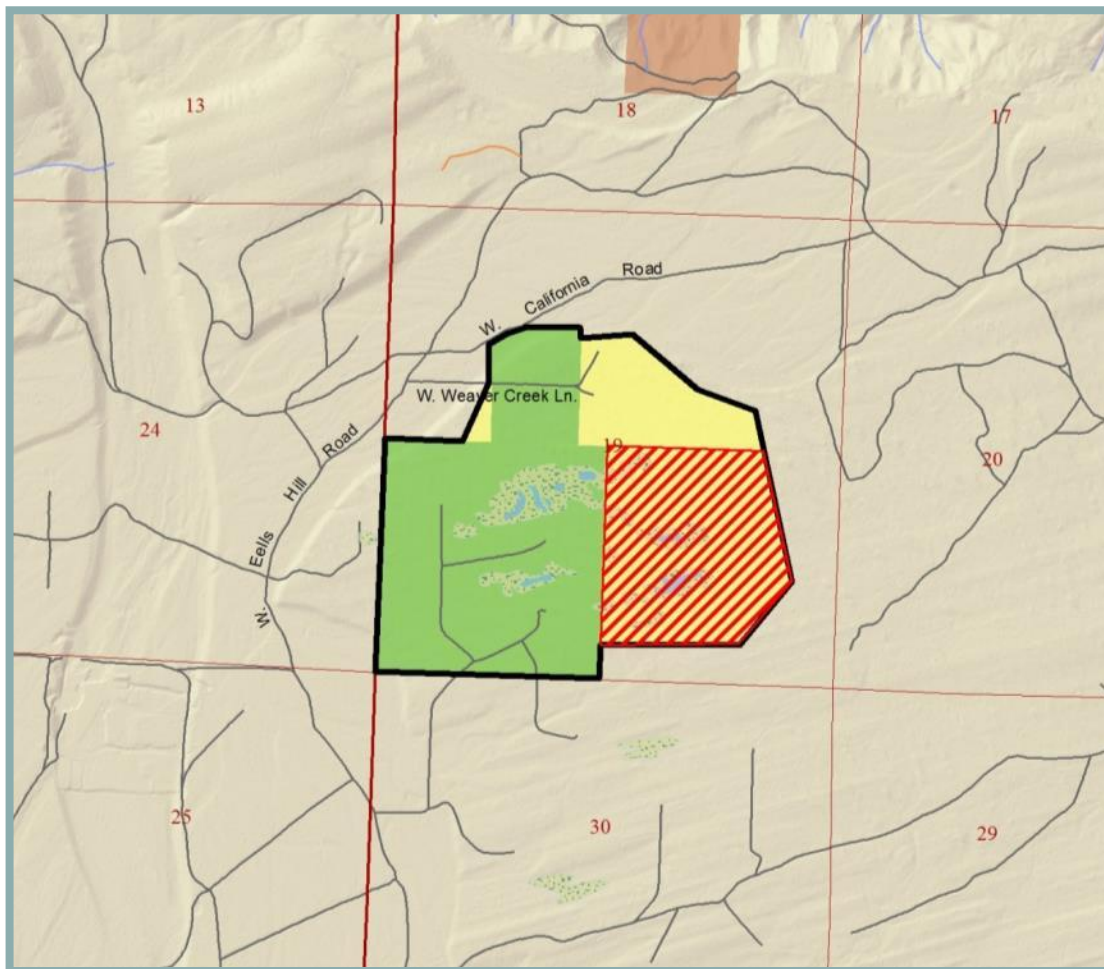
MAP LEGEND

- Natural Area Boundary
- Natural Area Preserve
- Natural Resources Conservation Area
- Lands Eligible for Inclusion
- DNR Trust Lands
- WA State Parks
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- County or Municipal
- Priority Parcels for Acquisition

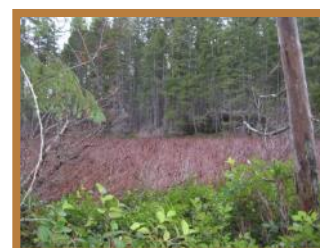


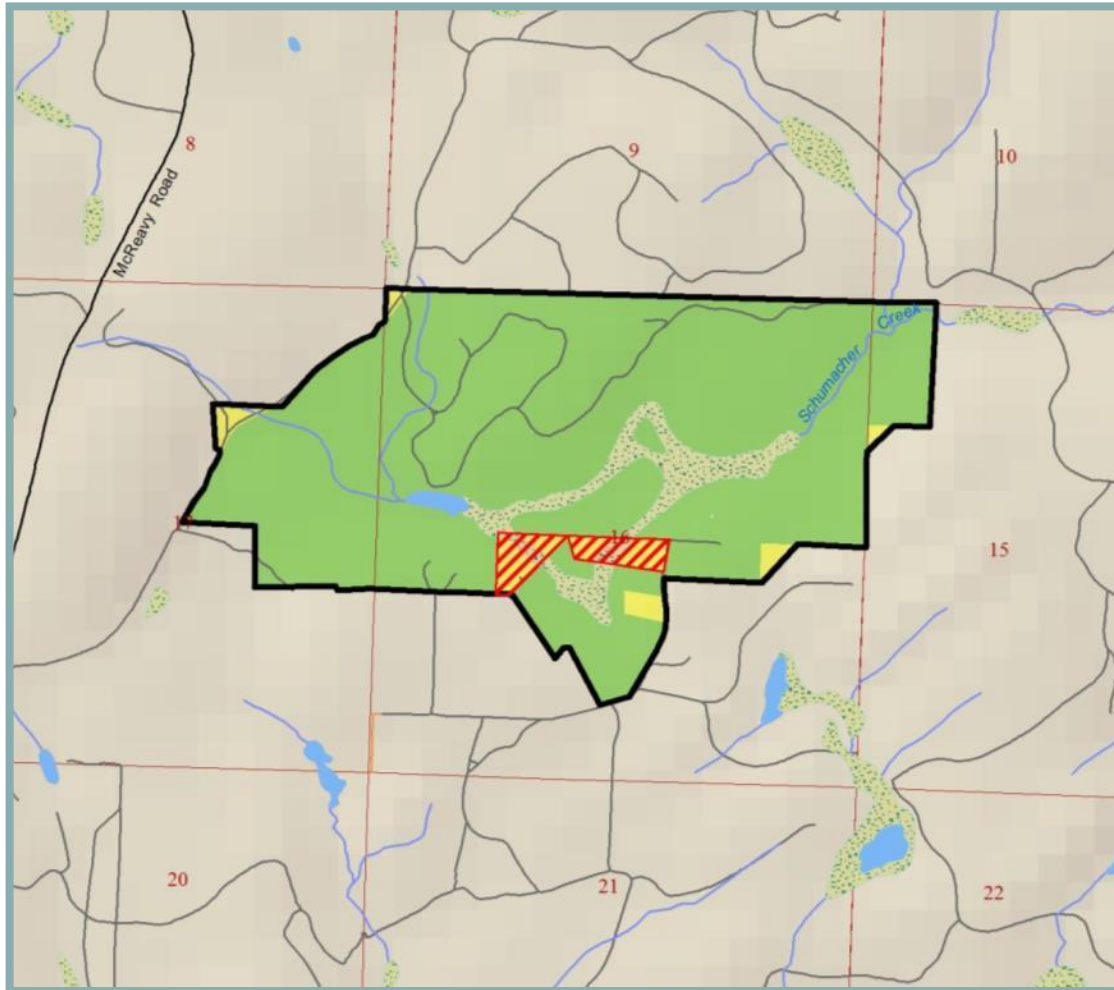
Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Stavis NRCA project area contains the highest quality occurrence of a rare forest community type and a variety of high quality wildlife habitats including mature forest conditions, Hood Canal shoreline and salmon spawning habitat and freshwater wetlands. This proposal would allow protection of a significant area of marine shoreline.
Estimated Acres	281
Requested Amount	\$1.83 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple and Conservation Easement
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Trust Land Transfer
Legislative District	23
Existing Uses	Potential residential development, some resource management, recreational access, open space.
Intended Uses	This project adds to the protection of high priority natural heritage features in the statewide system of natural areas and adds to habitats in the existing natural area. The parcels will also provide opportunities for low-impact recreation and education and research.
Future Capital Costs	\$15,000 (RMAP)
Future Operating Costs	\$3,848 / year
PILT Estimate	\$6,907 / year









Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Ink Blot NAP project area contains rare and important wetland features. It is located within one of the largest blocks of forestland remaining within the Puget Trough Ecoregion. The Douglas' spirea/sphagnum community found at Ink Blot is considered imperiled in Washington State. The two occurrences at Ink Blot are the highest quality examples remaining in the state. The wetland systems at both Schumacher Creek and Ink Blot remain intact with little evidence of human disturbance or exotic species invasion.
Estimated Acres	160
Requested Amount	\$1.85 million
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection
Legislative District	35
Existing Uses	Resource management though extensive areas are wetland habitats.
Intended Uses	This project adds to the protection of high priority natural heritage features in the statewide system of natural areas by adding significant wetland area to the existing natural area. The parcels will be available for education and research.
Future Capital Costs	\$4,000 (RMAP)
Future Operating Costs	\$1,626 / year
PILT Estimate	\$1,222 / year



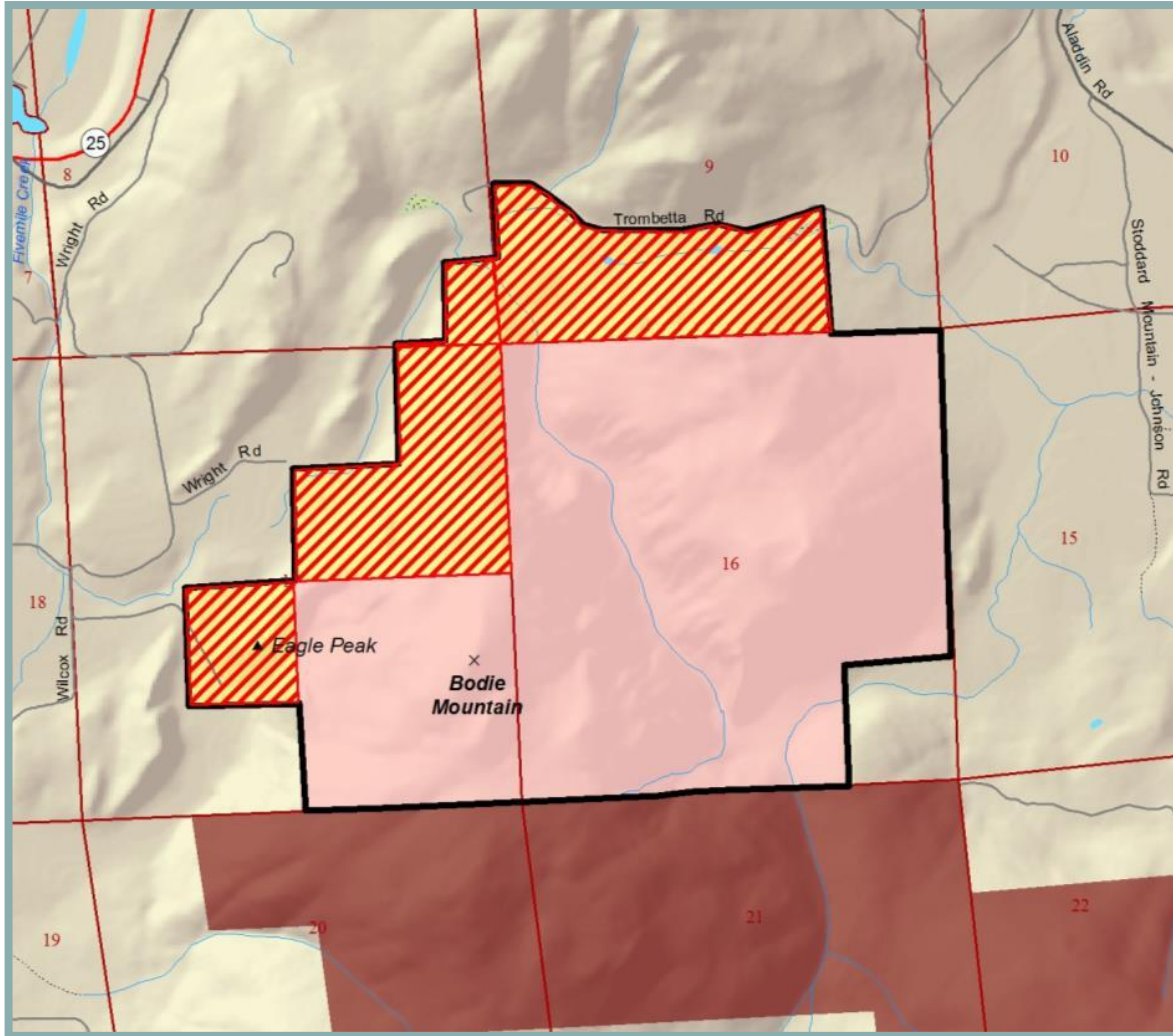
**MAP LEGEND**

-  NAP Boundary
-  Natural Area Preserve
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition



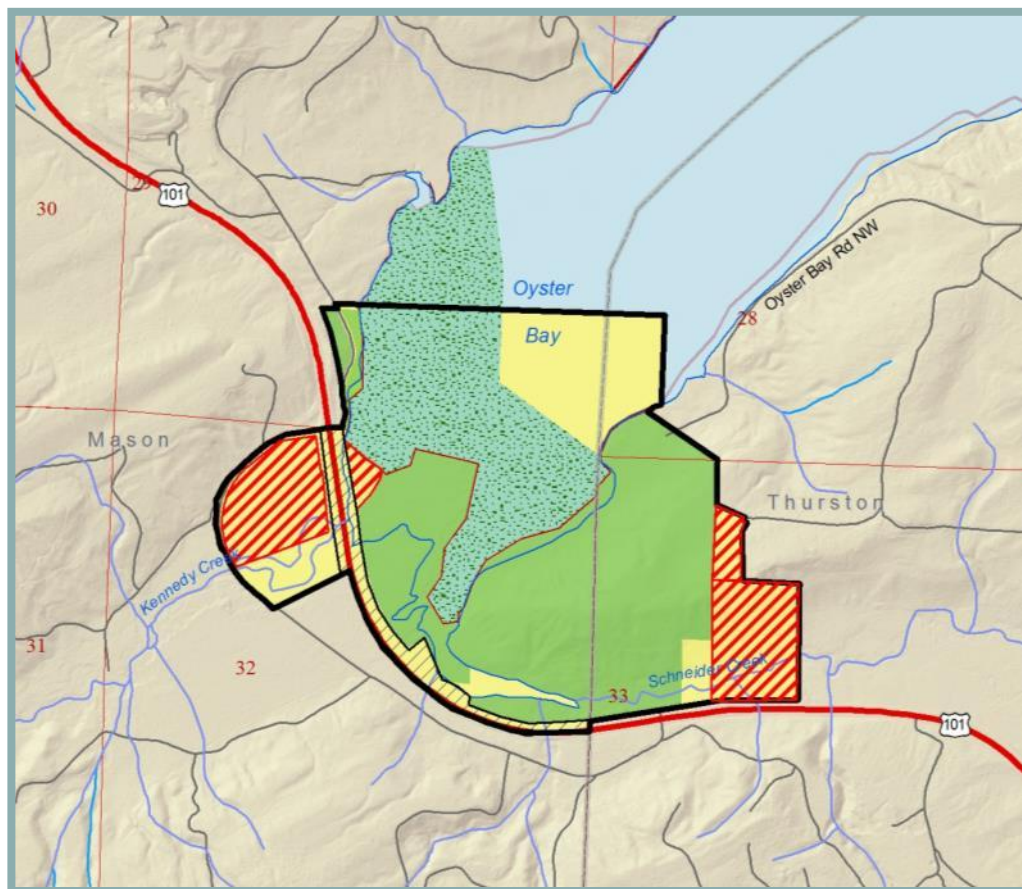
Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Schumacher Creek NAP project area contains wetlands that are an extremely rare feature in the Puget Trough ecoregion; there are no other opportunities to protect such a feature. One of the plant communities found at Schumacher Creek, the Sitka alder/skunk cabbage-water parsley community, has a very restricted geographic range; it is only found in the Puget Trough ecoregion and is critically imperiled. The wetland systems at both Schumacher Creek and Ink Blot remain intact with little evidence of human disturbance or exotic species invasion.
Estimated Acres	14
Requested Amount	\$150,000
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection
Legislative District	35
Existing Uses	Resource management though extensive areas are wetland habitats.
Intended Uses	This project adds to the protection of high priority natural heritage features in the statewide system of natural areas by adding significant wetland area to the existing natural area. The parcels will be available for education and research.
Future Capital Costs	\$0
Future Operating Costs	\$415 / year
PILT Estimate	\$107 / year











Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	This project will establish the Trombetta Canyon NAP that was designated in 2012. The project area will protect habitat for rare plant species (including hoary willow, yellow mountain-avens and steller's rockbrake), stream habitat, scrub-shrub and emergent wetlands, and limestone cliffs (including limestone-dependent species) within the boundary. This site has been insulated from disturbances and offers an uncommon opportunity for study of natural ecological processes.
Estimated Acres	300
Requested Amount	\$525,000
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Natural Areas Trust Land Transfer
Legislative District	7
Existing Uses	Resource management, outdoor recreation and environmental education.
Intended Uses	The proposal will add under-represented natural heritage features to the statewide system of natural areas. It will provide opportunities for environmental education and research along with increased biodiversity protection.
Future Capital Costs	Unknown at this time
Future Operating Costs	\$1,605 / year
PILT Estimate	\$894 / year



**MAP LEGEND**

-  NAP Boundary
-  Natural Area Preserve
-  Lands Eligible for Inclusion
-  Dept. of Transportation Right of Way
-  State Tidelands withdrawn from Leasing for Conservation Purposes
-  Priority Parcels for Acquisition



Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The Kennedy Creek NAP project area will increase protection for one of the few remaining high quality salt marsh communities in Puget Sound, including vital habitat for migrating shorebirds and salmon. It includes the protection of a segment of Schneider Creek which supports the health of the salt marsh ecosystems.
Estimated Acres	69
Requested Amount	\$500,000
Type of Acquisition	Fee Simple
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection
Legislative District	35
Existing Uses	Potential and existing residential development, agricultural pasture and wetland open space.
Intended Uses	This project adds to the protection of high priority natural heritage features in the statewide system of natural areas by adding to the existing natural area. The parcels will be available for education and research.
Future Capital Costs	\$0
Future Operating Costs	\$1,524 / year
PILT Estimate	\$1,725 / year

